

Conservation Treatment Report

Temporary Identification Number: 79
Owner/Custodian Call Number: PA6807.A1 D7 1697
Title/Subject/Description: The Works of Virgil
Creator: Virgil, translated by John Dryden
Date of Production: 1697
Place of Production: London
Binding Dimensions: 44.8 x 30 x 8 cm
Textblock Dimensions: 44.3 x 27.5 x 6.3 cm

Owner/Custodian: Rauner Special Collections Library
Address: Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH
Telephone: 603-646-0538

Date Examined: January 29, 2010
Date Treatment Completed: February 15, 2010
Conservator: Helen K. Bailey

Treatment Objective

The goal of this treatment is to re-attach loose pages and the detached front cover to permit safe handling by researchers in a special collections library environment.

Item Description and Condition

The volume is a tight-back, tight joint, half-style leather binding with leather-covered laced-on boards. The volume has three kinds of leather covering, one on the corners, one on the boards and another on the spine. The board covering material is dark brown, vegetable-tanned calfskin. The spine covering material is a lighter brown, vegetable-tanned calfskin, not contemporary to the binding, indicating a re-back. The corner covering material is a light brown, vegetable-tanned calfskin similar in color to the spine leather. The front and back covers are elaborately blind-tooled with lines and decorations. There is a gold-tooled dark brown leather label on the spine, of a different material than the reback. The board edges are gold-tooled in a decorative pattern. The boards are of unshaped binder's board, .8 cm in thickness.

The covering material is in fair condition, with scarring and severe abrasion on the back cover. The gold tooling on the board edges is severely abraded. The spine leather is split down the entire joint of the front board and the tail half of the joint of the back board. The front board is entirely detached and the back board is loose. The corners are discolored and friable.

The textblock is sewn on raised cord supports, which are laced into the boards. The sewing pattern is not visible. The textblock has a flat spine with a shallow shoulder. The

volume has a sewn, front-bead endband of linen thread on a cord core at the tail, and the headband is missing. The textblock consolidation is intact, although the supports are broken along the front shoulder and at the tail of the back shoulder. There are four detached pages; the front endsheet, first two pages, and back endsheet.

The textblock paper is handmade, laid, medium-weight, cream-colored paper with a moderate texture. The endsheets are tipped on, and are single folios of a similar paper to the textblock, but slightly lighter in weight. The textblock edges are sprinkled in red. The text media is black and red printing ink with a visible type impression. There are several engraved plates throughout the volume. The textblock support and media are in good condition.

Photodocumentation

Photodocumentation was completed with a Nikon digital camera. Images include overall and shots of the book in spectral and during-treatment shots in ambient light. The images document the book's condition before, during, and after treatment.

Treatment Proposal

1. Re-attach front board and tail of back board to the textblock spine.
2. Re-attach detached pages to the textblock.
3. Cosmetically integrate the board attachment as possible.
4. Consolidate board corners.
5. Consolidate leather.

Materials Used

1. Klucel-G (Talas)
2. HP-06 Sekishu tissue (Hiromi)
3. Precipitated wheat starch paste mixed 1:4 with distilled water, cooked 20 minutes (University Products)
4. Methylcellulose 2.5% (BookMakers)
5. Jade 711 PVAc (Talas)
6. Moriki tissue (Japanese Paper Place)
7. Golden fluid acrylic paint (raw umber)
8. SC6000 (The Leather Conservation Centre)

Treatment Performed

1. Dry cleaned first three pages.
2. Locally humidified and flattened title page with a cotton swab dipped in deionized water.
3. Consolidated entire cover with Klucel-G.
4. Hinged front board to 3rd page (first secure page in the textblock) with Sekishu tissue and wheat starch paste. Hinged to inside of board, over pastedown.

5. Partially lifted panels of leather on spine.
6. Lifted areas of leather on board to fit cloth strips under, corresponding to lifted panels on spine.
7. Sized linen cloth with methylcellulose and cut into strips.
8. Hinged on detached title page, front two endsheets, and back endsheet using Sekishu tissue and wheat starch paste.
9. Glued sized linen strips across outer hinge of front and back boards, using a mixture of wheat starch paste and PVAc, inserting strips under lifted leather on boards and spine. Adhered strips approximately ½ inch onto spine and board edges. Used three strips on front board: one on 2nd panel from tail, one on head panel, and one in center panel. Used two strips on back board, one on tail panel and one in center panel.
10. Glued brown water-torn Moriki strips along outer hinges to cover break in leather, both as a cosmetic feature and a secondary board attachment, using wheat starch paste.
11. Cosmetically integrated Moriki strips using acrylic paint applied in a stippling pattern to mimic the mottled appearance of the leather.
12. Applied a cosmetic tissue hinge to the inside of both front and back boards, using Sekishu tissue and wheat starch paste.
13. Consolidated board corners with wheat starch paste.
14. Consolidated entire cover with Klucel G.
15. Consolidated spine leather and Moriki hinges with SC6000.

Length of treatment: 11 hours